

TROLLEY MEN ASK FOR MORE PAY

Improvements in Working Conditions also in Demand Presented to Connecticut Co.—Four Hour Conference Held—Same Questions to Come Up With Plant System in Eastern Connecticut.

New Haven, Conn., May 25.—The state board of trolley men's union today presented to General Manager Pundert of the Connecticut Company demands for a general increase in pay and about twenty different requests for improvements in working conditions. Many of the latter are of a technical nature. The delegates—fourteen in number—conferred with Mr. Pundert for about four hours. No statement was given out, but the trolley men seemed satisfied with the meeting.

Mr. Pundert will now present the demands to the officials of the company and an answer is expected within the course of a few weeks. The state board will have another meeting tomorrow morning to take up minor matters.

It is understood that the trolley men's argument for an increase in pay is on account of the high cost of living. This is the same argument that was advanced two years ago when the differences were settled by arbitration. It is believed in some quarters that the present demands will also be submitted to a court of arbitration.

The state board will later take up similar questions with the Plant system in the eastern part of the state, and at Danbury for the lines there.

BIRDS AS CONSERVERS OF PUBLIC HEALTH.

Facts Which Have Been Learned By Chief of Biological Survey.

Washington, D. C., May 25.—New light is shed on the activities of birds as conservers of the public health in a communication to the National Geographic Society, at Washington, D. C., from Henry W. Henshaw, Chief of the Biological Survey. The Survey for a considerable period has been studying the foods of birds by examining the stomachs of specimens killed for scientific purposes.

The value of birds to the farmer is plain enough, but we do not usually think of birds as having any direct relation to the public health, writes Mr. Henshaw. To prove that they do, however, it is only necessary to state that 500 mosquitoes have been found in the stomach of a single night-hawk; that in a killdeer's stomach hundreds of the larvae of the salt-marsh mosquito have been found, and that many shore birds greedily devour mosquito larvae. As mosquitoes are known to carry the germs of such serious diseases as typhoid, malaria, and dengue fever it is evident that by destroying such germs the birds are conferring a distinct benefit on man. It may be added that not infrequently ticks are eaten by birds, and that the tick which is responsible for the spread of Texas fever among cattle has been frequently found in the stomach of a bobwhite.

In considering the many kinds of birds in the United States from the practical side, they may not inaptly be called a police force of the air, the chief duty of which is to restrain within bounds the horde of insects that if unchecked would devour every green thing. To accomplish this task successfully, the members of the force must be variously equipped. As the bulk of insects spend more time on the ground, we find more birds are fitted for terrestrial service than for any other. Our largest bird family, the sparrows, is chiefly a ground bird. It is ably aided in its search for insects by the thrushes, wrens, certain of the warblers and many other birds. So many insects burrow into trees that a highly specialized class of birds—the woodpeckers—have been developed to dig them out. The bills, tongues, feet and even tails have been cunningly adapted to this end. The bark of trees also forms a favorite shelter for numerous insects, and behold the wrens, nuthatches, warblers, creepers, with shape of eyes and slenderest of bills. The air is full of flying insects, and to take care of these there are the swallows, swifts and night-hawks whose wings and bodies are so shaped as to endow them with the speed and agility necessary to follow all the turns and windings of their nimble insect prey. The whippoorwill attends to the night-flying insects when most birds are asleep, while the hawks by day and the owls by night supplement the work of other birds and have a special function of their own, the destruction of noxious rodents.

Notwithstanding the fact that the acreage under cultivation in the United States is larger than ever before, and that the crops are greater, the cost of foodstuffs continually mounts upward. Meantime the destruction of farm and orchard crops by insects and by rodents amounts to many millions each year. If any part of this loss can be prevented it will be so much clear gain. Since birds perform such invaluable service, every effort should be made to protect them. This can be done by furnishing nesting boxes for certain species to nest in, as swallows, martins, wrens, woodpeckers, great-crowned fly-catchers and others; by planting berry-bearing shrubs about the farm and orchard as food for the birds in winter, and by the establishment of bird sanctuaries where birds may be reasonably safe from their natural enemies and be permitted to live and breed in absolute security as far as man is concerned.

Last but not least important may be mentioned the element of safety from cats. Friendly overtures to birds from householders who regard tabby as a necessary member of the family are not likely to be successful, or if so the experiment is apt to end in the death of the confiding birds. Birds and cats do not thrive in the same neighborhood.

To Counteract Tannin in Tea. One of the marked characters of tea is the tannin contained in it. Indian tea has about twice as much as the Chinese growth. It has a marked effect on the digestion, even in the presence of other fluids. In all cases it retards the digestive process to an extent that would astonish those who have not inquired into the matter; and it has been recommended that a pinch of bi-carbonate of soda should be added to the brew of persons with weak digestions so as to make the infusion alkaline.

High Tuberculosis Death Rate. The per cent. of deaths from consumption among cement workers is 19 per cent., as against 14 per cent. for all the male workers in the United States. They inhale great quantities of cement dust, but some authorities consider this a source of health because of the heavy admixture of lime. Authorities differ on this score, and even federal evidence is inconclusive.

Hollander's Use of Canals. By using the canals for the transportation of peat hundreds of boatmen and their families find a means of livelihood in Holland. Aside from a certain amount of freight which is shipped by rail, there are yearly between 5,000,000 and 6,000,000 cubic meters (cubic meter—35.314 cubic feet) of peat space necessary.

RED LETTER DAY FOR MOTORCYCLE RACERS

Banked Track at the Fair Grounds Will Make Fast Time Possible.

Saturday afternoon, at the Fair Grounds, will be the red-letter day on the calendar for the motorcycle enthusiasts in all Eastern Connecticut and some parts of Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Great is the anticipation of the racers for Burdick and Carroll for the chance that Decoration Day will give to show who will deliver the goods. And there is no doubt but that the biggest crowd that ever witnessed a motorcycle event will be on hand to see who will come off the victor.

There is probably no better course for the event in the state than the race track at the Fair Grounds, for it has been thoroughly gone over and all defects remedied and the curves banked for the purpose by the New London County Agricultural Society, and is in readiness for the contest of the speedsters.

Four prizes are offered in the boys' half-mile race. First prize, a silver loving cup, inscribed for the occasion. Second prize bicycle tire; third prize a bicycle lamp; 4th entering will be a luggage carrier. The age limit of the boys entering will be 15, and an entrance fee of 50c is to be charged, with which he will be entitled to an entrance ticket to the Fair Grounds on Saturday. If the boy appears in the race and starts at the proper time, he will be refunded his 50c; if not, he will forfeit the 50c. Sunday there were quite a good many try-outs at the track and some good records were pulled off as a forerunner of what is coming Saturday. Anyone desiring to enter should address this paper to the Motorcycle Race Manager, 35 Broadway, Norwich, Conn.

Modern Love Philter. When a young girl in the East end of London is flitted by her lover she invariably proceeds to the nearest chemist's and purchases some orris root, which she takes home without speaking to any one and burns it. The one who has flitted her is then sure to repent and return to her.

Mr. Wayback Learns Something. Mr. Wayback—"Be yew the waiter?" Waiter—"Yes, suh." Mr. Wayback—"Dew yew know I've been a wonderin' all along why they called these places chop houses. I know now. Will you please bring me an ax? I want tew cut this steak."

Small Source of National Wealth. Brazil owes her wealth in coffee to a monk who planted two seeds in a monastery garden in Rio de Janeiro in 1754, whence the plants spread throughout the country.

Useful Proverb. "Do you," he asked, "believe in early marriage?" "Well," she replied, "I used to, but I am willing to say that at present I believe 'better late than never' may be applied to marriage as well as to some other things."

Do You Suffer from Rheumatism? Then go at once to The Lee & Osmond Co., and get a bottle of RHEUMA for 50 cents. When you use RHEUMA you use a remedy prepared for Rheumatism and its kindred diseases only—not a "cure-all." Lumbago, Sciatica, Arthritis, Gout, Chronic Neuritis, and Kidney Diseases may all be permanently relieved by using RHEUMA. They are caused by the same trouble—Uric Acid in excessive quantity in the system.

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Many Forms of This Dreadful Disease, But All Due to the Same Cause—Uric Acid.

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THE NEXT DIRECTORY WILL GO TO PRESS May 31st

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All Work for Man's Advancement. The long quest for the source of the Nile, for the northwest passage, for the north and south poles; yes, and the ancient search for the "elixir of life," "perpetual motion" and the "secret of life," have for us this grand significance—they all point to the fact that in the mind of man there is a deathless ambition to know and to do—to fathom the depths of the unknown; to conquer the unconquered, to add more and still more to the sum of its knowledge and achievement.

Wisdom of Quiet. More than half a century of existence has taught me that most of the wrong and folly which darken earth is due to those who cannot possess their souls in quiet; that most of the good which saves mankind from destruction comes of life that is led in thoughtful stillness. Every day the world grows noisier; I, for one, will have no part in that increasing clamor and, were it only by my silence, I confer a boon on all.—From the Private Papers of Henry Rycroft, by George Gissing.

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Women Must Say "Obey." Church of England bishops recently considered an amendment offered by the bishop of Lincoln to eliminate the use of the word "obey" by women in the marriage service. The bishop of Winchester said: "I cannot help thinking it is a regrettable thing that the word should continue. I cannot say that without saying that in an ideal marriage service I should desire to see some reference to the leadership of the man in the home." And then the bishops avoided a decision by having the amendment withdrawn.

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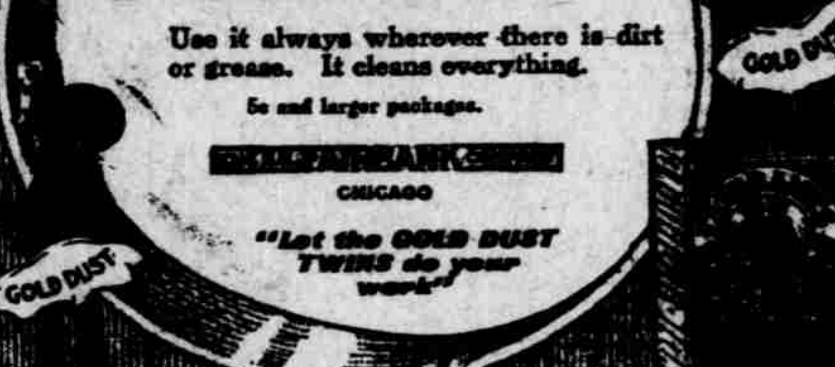
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